Recommendations of the committee to assess actual production capacity of HFC

3079. SHRI JIBON ROY:
SHRI M. A. BABY:
Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the committee set up by Government to assess the actual production capacity of Durgapur and other units of HFC have submitted their recommendations in 1992;

(b) if so, the recommendations thereof and the reasons for its non-implementation; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to implement the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS & FERTILIZERS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) to (c) A Committee set up by HFC submitted its report in March, 1993, on the achievable capacity of the various units of Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation Limited. The Committee, after analysing the condition of the plants and their past performance, indicated the following achievable capacities for ammonia and urea.

Name of the unit	Percentage of capacity utilisation	
	Ammonia	Urea
Durgapur	56.6%	52.42%
Barauni	53.9%	55.76%
Namrup-I	59.18%	—
Namrup-II	55.9%	57.60%

HFC has been declared as a sick company by the Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR). The BIFR has appointed the Industrial Credit and Investment Corporation of India Limited (ICICI) as the Operating Agency and directed it on 15.7.1994 to independently evaluate all the alternatives available for rehabilitation of the units of HFC from the angles of technical, economic and commercial viability, including change of management. The report of the Committee has been given to ICICI by HFC. Any decision on the recommendations of the Committee would depend upon the outcome of the proceedings of the BIFR, which is a quasi-judicial authority.

Prices of Formulations based on Imported Bulk Drugs

3080. SHRI JAGIR SINGH DARD: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 3872 given in the Rajya Sabha on 21st April, 1994 and state:

(a) whether the Ministry has failed to bring down the price of any formulation based on imported bulk drug consequent to reduction in customs duty from 85% to 65% since March, 1994;

(b) what are the reasons for this lapse and who is responsible for such a state of affairs;

(c) whether it is a fact that number of antibiotics and cardiovascular drugs imported into the country is not more than 30 and that the Ministry has failed to furnish their names, imports and CIF prices during the last three years;

(d) whether it is a fact that import prices have been jacked up; and

(e) whether enquiry into this naked scandal would be held and those in charge would be taken to task?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) to (e) The information will be collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Frequent rise in fertilizer rates

3081. SHRI BHUPINDER SINGH MANN: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons of increase in the rates of fertilizers;

(b) what mechanism is adopted in calculating the component of petroleum and natural gas in the cost of fertilizer production; and

(c) what are the reasons of frequent rise in the rates of fertilizers for which natural gas supplied remains under the control of Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) The farmgate price of urea has been increased by 20% w.e.f. 10.6.1994. This has been done to contain the mounting subsidy bill and to check imbalance in the use of various plant nutrients by extending special concessions on decontrolled phosphatic and potassic fertilizers during the current year.

(b) and (c) The cost of feedstock, petroleumbased or natural gas, in the manufacture of fertilizers is calculated on its actual price coupled with efficiency norms prescribed for each manufacturing unit.

Periodical increases in the administered prices of feedstocks are taken into account in calculating the retention price of each manufacturing unit. These revisions, however, do not automatically result in increase in the farmgate price of urea.

हिन्दुस्तान फर्टिलाइजर्स कारपोरेशन के नामरूप एकक के कर्मचारियों की छंटनी

3082. श्री अजीत जोगी: क्या रसायन और उर्वरक मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या नामरूप स्थित हिन्दुस्तान फर्टिलाईजर्स कारपोरेशन के लगभग एक लाख कर्मचारियों की छंटनी की जा रही है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो उसका ब्यौरा क्या है;

(ग) क्या उनके लिए कोई वैकल्पिक सेवा योजना का प्रस्ताव किया गया है; और

(घ) यदि हां, तो उसका ब्यौरा क्या है?

रसायन और उर्वरक मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री एडुआर्डो फेलेरियो): (क) से (घ) 1.7.1994 को, हिन्दुस्तान फर्टिलाइजर्स कार्पोरेशन के नामरूप एकक में केवल 2623 कर्मचारी कार्यरत थे। इस समय, उनकी छंटनी का कोई प्रस्ताव नहीं है।

Effect of Imports on Penicillin

3083. SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether with the free imports of many bulk durgs and drug intermediates, the prices will come down;

(b) if so, what will happen in the case of Penicillin; and

(c) what steps Government are taking for the survival of IDPL and HAL?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) to (c) Imports of bulk drugs and intermediates are governed by the provisions of Export and Import Policy (1992—97). 8 categories of bulk drugs/intermediates, including Penicillin are included in the Negative List of Imports, subject to import licence, taking into account the need to ensure adequate availability and to safeguard the interest of the indigenous basic stage manufacturers like M/s. Indian Drugs & Pharmaceuticals Limited and M/s. Hindustan Antibiotics Limited.

Penicillin produced by Torrent Spic and JK Plants

3084. SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Torrent Spic and JK plants which intend to start production in the next two years will have Penicillin production cost higher than HAL's; and

(b) if so, in what manner Government propose to restrict the Penicillin prices to substantiate and protect these producers?